

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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GESTAPO

Hitler's Gangsters Run West German Police

More than 250 Gestapo officers, SS officers, and concentration camp guards are known to hold leading posts in the West German police forces today, the Committee for German Unity announced in East Berlin on January 13th.

The actual figure is believed to be much higher, but only those cases have been listed in which positive identification has so far been made, a Committee spokesman stated. The spokesman pointed out that the West German newspaper "Wolfsburger Nachrichten" recently tried to belittle SS influence in the police by stating, "About half the senior officials in the Lower Saxony police were not members of the SS", thus confirming that the other half of the leading officers had been SS men.

A full listing of the Nazi police officers now back in office in West Germany, with short details of their crimes during the Hitler period, would fill about three complete issues of GERMAN REPORT.

Here is a short selection of names, including in particular some of the men who have been re-instated in the police forces of Adenauer's state after serving terms of imprisonment for war crimes:

Helmut Kiehne, Commissar of Mounted Police in Hamburg. Attached to German police forces in the occupied Ukraine in 1941, sentenced after the war by a Soviet Court to 25 years imprisonment for murdering Soviet civilians. Handed over to West German Government in 1956 as

"non-amnestied war criminal", immediately released and given police commission.

Fritz Methfessel, Chief of Detective Police in Grewen-Ems. Gestapo officer throughout the Nazi period. Sentenced to two years imprisonment by US military court in 1945 for mistreating allied POWs.

Guenther Hellwig, Chief of Detective Police in Muehlheim. SS Captain, served in German police forces in occupied Soviet territory. Sentenced to two years imprisonment by British military court after the war for his part in shooting Soviet citizens.

Kurt Obstfelder, Police Chief of Hanover. During the Second World War was company commander in Nazi Military Police. Sentenced by Soviet court to 15 years imprisonment for shooting Soviet civilians. Handed over to West Germany in 1956 as "non-amnestied war criminal", immediately released and given job of police chief.

Hermann Ahlhorn, Police Commissar in Hanover. SS Captain in occupied Norway. Held in internment by Norwegian authorities until 1956, re-instated in old rank in 1957.

Oswin Wicke, Police Lieutenant in Lower Saxony Provincial Police. Officer of a liquidation squad in the Soviet Union. Sentenced to 15 years by Soviet court, returned to West Germany in 1955 as "non-amnestied war criminal" and re-instated in police.

Walter Schueler, Police Commissar in Ansbach, Bavaria. Officer of a Nazi liquidation squad in occupied Poland. Sentenced for war crimes by Polish military

(cont. on next page)

Veteran Anti-Fascists Staff GDR Police

There is not a single former Gestapo man, SS officer, or war criminal in the police forces of the German Democratic Republic. All top officers have outstanding anti-fascist records; about 500 officers of the People's Police hold the medal "Fighter Against Fascism", which is only awarded to persons who took an active part in the struggle against nazism.

Police Chief Karl Maron, Minister of the Interior, took part in the underground struggle in Germany, and later fled to the Soviet Union, where

he was one of the founders of the Free Germany Committee.

The three deputy chiefs of the People's Police are Herbert Gruenstein, who was an officer in the International Brigade in Spain; Willi Seifert, who spent the entire Nazi period in prison and concentration camp; and Richard Wenzel, member of one of the most active anti-Nazi groups in wartime Germany, who was jailed for resistance work inside the Nazi Wehrmacht.

29 other top police officers fought fascism in the ranks of the International Brigade in Spain.

(cont. from front page)

court, released in 1953, re-instated in police.

Eugen Schaefer. Senior Detective Commissar, Cuxhaven. Served as Gestapo officer and officer of a liquidation squad in occupied Soviet territory. Sentenced to 25 years by Soviet military court, amnestied and released in 1957.

A. L. Hoffmann. Chief of Detective Police, Limburg. SS officer, participated in murders in Maidanek Concentration Camp, Poland.

Fritz Cornely. Detective Commissar in Cologne. Chief of the "Special Squad" in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, personally shot 27 prisoners on October 11th 1944. Charges were filed against him in October 1960 by survivors of the concentration camp, but no action has been taken by the authorities.

Albert Schulze. Officer in administration of Hesse Provincial Police. SS guard in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

Willi Zapf. Officer in administration of Hesse Provincial Police. SS guard in Sachsenhausen, later in Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Dr Bernhard Wehner. Chief of Detective Police in Dusseldorf. SS Colonel, charged in 1942 with detecting Czech patriots who killed SS Governor Heydrich.

Hermann Waldbillig. Police Commissar in Cologne. Head of

the "Jewish Section" of the Gestapo in Dusseldorf.

Dr Walter Zirpins. Head of Lower Saxony Detective Police. Prosecution witness at Reichstag Fire Trial in 1933, later Gestapo officer for Jewish problems in Lodz and Warsaw. Named on the Polish War Criminal List, never brought to trial.

Walter Braunschmidt. Chief of Detective Police, Aachen. SS major, committed war crimes in Zhitomir and Nikolayev, Soviet Union.

Andreas Fermer. Detective Commissar in Dortmund. Officer of liquidation squad behind the eastern front, later Gestapo officer in occupied Holland.

Johannes Frank. Detective Police Officer in Essen. Gestapo officer in Leipzig charged with detecting "religious resistance groups". Later Gestapo officer in occupied Holland.

Paul Eising. Chief of District Police, Muenster. Legal adviser to the nazi storm troops. Government official in charge of "aryan-

isation" in Budejowice, occupied Czechoslovakia.

Johannes Debring. Police officer in Cloppenburg. SS battalion commander in charge of anti-partisan actions in occupied Norway.

Walter Odewald. Government Counsellor in Lower Saxony Office for Protection of the Constitution. SS Major, worked in anti-resistance police in occupied Paris and occupied Prague.

Kurt Erdmann. Detective Officer in Stade. SS officer and head of the "political section" in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

Franz Drey. Chief of River Police, Mannheim. Chief of Harbour Police in Bordeaux, occupied France, specially decorated for work against French resistance.

Hermann Herz. Chief of Political Police, Stuttgart. From 1933 to 1938 head of Gestapo section "Communists and Jews" in Halle.

Hermann Weigold. Police Commissar, Stuttgart. SS officer on staff of SS commander in occupied Holland.

BRITISH ROCKETS FOR BONN

Britain will deliver a large number of "Seacat" rockets to the West German Wehrmacht, and the West German firm of Messerschmitt, which made fighter planes for the nazis, will help develop a new British jet plane, it was announced in Bonn on January 11th.

In addition, West German rocket experts who worked on the nazi V2 will cooperate with British scientists on the development of long range rockets. This work will probably be done outside West Germany to circumvent the ban on rocket development in West Germany, imposed when that country joined NATO.

Commenting on the agreement between Britain and West Germany, "Neues Deutschland", organ of the Socialist Unity Party, stated on January 13th:

"International cooperation is in principle a good thing, but this agreement is the exact opposite... Apart from the technical and military value of this agreement, the militarists of Bonn are interested in this type of 'cooperation' in order to further their unlimited armament. That is why they make big investments in projects like the St Louis Rocket Institute in France, and why they insist on units of their hated Wehrmacht being stationed on the territory of their allies.

"These methods are used in order to harness the governments of the other countries to the chariot of German militarism; for this reason Bonn exploits to the full the economic difficulties and the political ambitions of de Gaulle and Macmillan."

FREE MAGAZINE OFFER



Stories about the GDR - varying from taxi companies to the merchant marine - may be found in the current issue of GDR Review, the colourful illustrated monthly shown here.

You can have a free sample copy and details on how to subscribe, by writing to:

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Verlag Zeit im Bild
Spenerstrasse 21
Dresden A 19
German Democratic Republic.

Since the magazine is published in English, French, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Spanish and German, please specify which language you prefer.

(This offer does not apply to the GDR)

EICHMANN PALS AT LIBERTY

Murderers Unpunished in West Germany

On March 6th, Adolf Eichmann is due to go on trial in Jerusalem, charged with murdering many millions of Jews during Hitler's war. Many of Eichmann's closest collaborators are living prosperously at liberty, under their own names, in West Germany today. Here is a short list of some of these men, many of whom may be expected to be named in evidence given at the forthcoming trial:

SS Colonel Franz Alfred Six. Today director of the Deutz Factory, Friedrichshafen, West Germany. He first brought Eichmann to work in the "Reich Security Main Office", and promoted a planned "International Anti-Jewish Congress" for 1944. Sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for war crimes by US military court in April 1948; released 1952.

SS Colonel Kurt Becher. Today prosperous grain merchant in Bremen. Eichmann's "economics adviser" in Budapest 1944, played a prominent part in Eichmann's plans to barter Hungarian Jews for war material. Inspector General of concentration camps in 1945. Never brought to trial.

SS Colonel Edmund Veesenmayer. Today cosmetics merchant in Darmstadt. Hitler's plenipotentiary in Hungary in 1944, where he worked closely with Eichmann on the liquidation of Hungarian Jewry. Sentenced to 20 years for war crimes by US military court in April 1949; released December 1951.

SS Captain Huensch. Today living as "nutrition expert" in Hesse. One of Eichmann's assistants in the liquidation of Hungarian Jewry. Never brought to trial.

Eberhard von Thadden. Today living in Essen as Vice-President of the neo-Nazi German Reich Party. Expert on Jewish affairs in Nazi Foreign Ministry; collaborated closely with Eichmann in liquidation of Hungarian Jewry. West German courts quashed war crimes proceedings against him in 1952.

Hans Globke. Today State Secretary and personal assistant to West German Chancellor Adenauer. Official in Nazi Interior Ministry and author of the Nuremberg Laws, the Nazi anti-Semitic legislation. Never brought to trial. (Full details of Globke's career and crimes have

been given in recent issues of GERMAN REPORT.)

Franz Massfelder. Today top civil servant in West German Ministry of Justice. Worked under Globke in Nazi Ministry of Interior, wrote legal commentary to Nazi "Law for the Protection of Germanic Blood". At a conference with Eichmann on March 6th 1942 Massfelder approved proposals for castration of "Jews of mixed blood". Never brought to trial.

Many of Eichmann's assistants have never been traced. Some at least of the following are believed to be living under false names in West Germany today:

SS Major Rolf Guenther, Eichmann's personal assistant.

SS Captain Theodor Dannecker, Eichmann's aide in Italy in 1944.

SS Captain Zoepff, Eichmann's aide in Holland.

SS Colonel Helm, Eichmann's aide in Croatia.



State Secretary Globke: "You dope! Why hide out in Argentina instead of taking a safe job in Bonn?"

(cartoon from "Kulturny Zivot", Bratislava)

Killer Doctors Practice

Six doctors involved in killing children during the Nazi regime were given permission to continue their flourishing practices on January 11th in Hamburg, West Germany. The doctors were among those who ran a children's hospital in Rothenburgsort, Hamburg, where 68 children were killed under the Nazi plan to do away with persons they considered "unfit to live".

The Board of Health and the Chamber of Doctors in Hamburg ruled that the euthanasia killings

"could not be regarded as severe moral lapses in the spirit of the Reich Medical Ordinance" of 1935, which is still in effect today.

The decision was also based on the ruling of a law court in 1949, which dismissed a case against the doctors because although the killings were "illegal objectively", the doctors had not had the "consciousness of doing wrong" at the time. This argument has become increasingly popular in West Germany as an alibi for people who committed crimes under Hitler.

Pension Refused Widow

"No widow's pension" decided a compensation court in Hanover, West Germany in the case of a woman whose husband had been executed by the Nazis. It ruled that her husband, Dr Wilhelm Weber, had not been executed because of opposition to National Socialism; a Nazi "People's Court" had sentenced him to death in 1943 for "subversion of the military effort" and "favouring the enemy".

Dr Weber, a dentist, had told a

woman patient in 1943 that "Good day" and not "Heil Hitler" was the greeting in his office. He had also declared that "medieval torture methods are used in the concentration camps". The patient, now living in West Germany, had denounced him to the Gestapo and he had been sentenced to death.

In denying the pension, the Hanover court justified in effect the validity of the Nazi judge's decision.

Campaign to Beat Polio

The second big battle in the war against poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) is now in progress in the German Democratic Republic. Last spring the immunisation campaign was directed at all children and young people up to the age of 20; at present it includes those aged 21 to 40, as well as the babies born in the meantime and children who received only one or neither of the immunisation drops last year.

Last year's immunisation was in the form of two drops of fluid mixed with water, tea or fruit juice and taken with a spoon. It was given the children by a regular army of hospital nurses, teachers and other women, 72,000 of them members of the Red Cross Society, who went to the schools, colleges and kindergartens and, finally, to every home. Although the immunisation was completely voluntary, over 90% of all children were immunised in this way, a total of 4,200,000 people. The vaccine used was made according to the Sabin method — discovered in the United States and tried out on a mass scale in the Soviet Union.

The results in the GDR have been highly satisfactory. A comparison with West Germany, where only about one-third were immunised at all, and none with the Sabin vaccine, shows the difference clearly. In West Germany last year 4050 became ill with polio — about 75% were lame, many severely, and 245 polio victims died of the disease. In the GDR there were only 130 cases of polio, and 7 patients died. (The GDR has about 1/3 the population of West Germany.) Almost every case of the disease in the GDR was a person who had not been immunised — usually someone over 20. The few exceptions were all light cases, and it is possible that these were actually only a somewhat similar disease. The incidence of the disease in the GDR for all age groups was only 8% of that in previous years.

This year the vaccine will be given to adults in the form of pleasant-tasting sweets, and smaller children will again be given drops this year (if they were missed or not yet born last year). Most adults will be immunised at their place of work, and volunteer teams will also visit all homes to make certain that housewives, those on holiday and privately-employed people are reached.

The scale of the action can be seen in the case of East Berlin. Last year 222,000 people under 20 were immunised here. This year about 500,000 must be reached — in the short period between February 2nd and

11th. Ten tons of vaccine are needed as well as a carefully-organised staff of doctors and experts — including publicity men to explain the campaign in press, radio and TV and convince any remaining doubting Thomases, if possible. As in 1960, the immunisation is of course completely

free of charge this year. Not a single person of those immunised in East Berlin last year caught polio. Many doctors hope that this year's immunisation in East Berlin and the GDR as a whole will cut this once so dangerous disease to a negligible minimum or end it completely.

"Made in GDR" Isotopes for Sale

The Central Institute for Nuclear Physics in the GDR produces 117 different isotopes at present, many of them for export. One of the main new achievements has been the production of gold colloids for medical purposes.

"We have moved up to fourth place in the world in regard to the assortment of end-products we prepare", said Prof. Heinz Barwich, director of the Institute, in a state-

ment made on the fifth anniversary of its founding on January 6th. He also expressed thanks to the Soviet Union, which had made the Institute's scientific work possible by supplying its 2000 kilowatt nuclear reactor and its cyclotron.

The Institute, situated in Rossendorf near Dresden, is used only for developing peaceful applications of atomic energy. Future plans include the construction of an experimental zero reactor.

Herr Dr. Doolittle?

Domestic animals in tropical areas are the main subject of research at the new Department for Tropical Animal Hygiene set up by Karl Marx University in Leipzig. The department, part of the Veterinary Institute of the University, aims at helping the young national states in Africa and Asia with animal husbandry problems. Its new director, Dr Lothar Hüssel, has just returned from consultations on this subject with government leaders in Guinea and the Mali Republic.

Second Mates

The international chess tournament in Stockholm in early January saw the expected victory of World Champion Michail Tal (USSR) and, in second place, the GDR's Grand Master Wolfgang Uhlmann, the victor at the Hastings Tournament in Britain two years ago. Uhlmann, like Tal, was unbeaten during the tournament.

Jumping-off Point

Helmut Recknagel, Democratic Germany's topnotch ski jumper, sailed his way to another victory on the Alpine slopes of West Germany and Austria in early January. He out-jumped and out-pointed the top jumpers of Central Europe, Scandinavia, Finland and the Soviet Union

in a tourney which began on the New Year's weekend in the Bavarian Alps and was continued a week later with two contests in Austria. Recknagel won the Olympic Gold Medal in Squaw Valley last year.

The Last One . . .

The workers of the "Karl Marx Locomotive Factory" in Potsdam turned over their last steam locomotive to the railroads a fortnight ago. From now on, only diesel engines will be produced here. At a special ceremony marking the end of the steam era in locomotive production, the plant's director said, "125 years of tradition are departing with this last steam locomotive, but we do not regret the change-over." Since the plant began production again after the war, 1794 steam locomotives and 3045 diesels have been made in the factory.

The First One . . .

The first 100 Megawatt turbine (100 million watts) to be constructed in Democratic Germany has been completed in the nationally-owned Bergmann-Borsig plant in East Berlin. The turbine will be installed in the huge new power plant going up at Luebbenau south of Berlin. It will power a 125 million volt-ampere, hydrogen-cooled generator and produce enough electricity to supply a city of 250,000 people.

ARISTOPHANES

— Threat to "Free World"

The western world is imperilled by Aristophanes, Greek writer who died in 386 B.C.

To avert the danger of infection by a subversive play written by the great Greek dramatist, bans have been recently imposed by the British commandant in West Berlin, and by the West German TV controllers.

The story starts about 2350 years ago, when Aristophanes wrote his famous comedy "Lysistrata". This play tells how the women of Greece stopped a war between Athens and Sparta by going on strike, and banning their husbands from bed and board, particularly bed.

In the long years which have passed since then, "Lysistrata" has been played, in the original form or in adaptations, in almost every country. One of the most recent adaptations of the original play is that made by British dramatist Ewan MacColl under the title "Operation Olive Branch".

MacColl's play has been produced in many theatres in Democratic Germany. At the end of December 1960 it was revived by the Maxim Gorki Theatre in East Berlin.

Now this is where the British Commandant in West Berlin comes into the picture. Advertisements for theatres in East Berlin are normally posted on the billboards of the elevated railway throughout both East and West Berlin, but the British, French, and American Commandants demand the right to censor theatre posters before they are pasted up in the western sectors of the city.

When the poster for "Operation Olive Branch" was submitted to the British Commandant's office in December 1960 in the normal way, he banned it without giving any reason. Similar bans were imposed by the other western commandants.

The poster in question is reproduced on this page.

It is interesting to note that Aristophanes has only recently become so dangerous. In 1957 and 1959 the British Commandant gave his approval to exactly the same poster.)

What about the ban imposed by West German TV? A few months ago, the plays department of the Hamburg TV studio decided that "Lysistrata" would make a fine TV

play. They decided to make it a big "prestige" show, and hired famed actor-director Fritz Kortner to stage it. He in his turn hired a glittering cast, including Romy Schneider, West Germany's biggest-name young film actress, and got the play onto film.

Last month, the directors of several of West Germany's main TV companies, belatedly learning that "Lysistrata" was an anti-war play, demanded to see the film before it was publicly screened. After the screening, five of the eight regional TV companies which make up the West German network suddenly decided that Aristophanes' work was ob-

scene, and could not be shown to the public.

The only West German TV viewers who will be able to see Lysistrata will be those in Hamburg, Bremen, and Hesse, and they will have to stay up until midnight to do so, since the "dangerous" old Greek play will only be transmitted after the main West German TV programme has closed down. Significantly enough, the three TV companies which will transmit the play all lie in provinces with a Social Democratic majority, where the pressure of the militarists is not so immediate and strong as in other parts of West Germany.



You Ask - We Answer

VISITS TO THE GDR

"... After reading so much about the German Democratic Republic, I would like to visit and see it for myself during my summer holidays. What are the chances of doing this?"

R. L., London N. W. 3

In the past, tourist travel to the GDR has had its problems, and there are still difficulties due to the fact that the western countries do not recognise the GDR. But there are definitely ways to visit and see the scenery, meet the people and judge for yourself what has been built up in the last 16 years.

The best bet is for young people willing to dispense with travel luxury but interested in meeting people, and seeing not only the usual museums or famous buildings but also the inside of factories, cooperative farms and the like. They need not be young in years, actually; the only limit is a minimum age of 16. An important point to remember is that these trips are for groups of at least 6 people.

Such trips may be arranged for any number of days at an average cost of about 24 shillings per person per day. This includes three meals, fares inside the GDR, all admission fees, the help of a young guide and interpreter for the group and sleeping accommodation in youth hostels and student hostels.

Fare to Berlin and back from London is just under £20 by train (second class) and just over £40 by plane.

Here is one of the trips proposed: it lasts 12 days and costs, all told, about £14 per person.

4 days in a tent colony on a lake-side in Potsdam. Visits to Berlin, to

the palace of Sans Souci, to a nationally-owned factory, and to a meeting with young Germans.

4 days in Leipzig. Visits to various city sights, including the Dimitroff Museum, where the famous Reichstag Fire Trial was held in 1933. A trip to the new Institute of Sport and Physical Culture, to the theatre and any other places of interest desired.

4 days in Weimar. Visit to the Buchenwald Memorial, site of the huge nazi concentration camp. Visit to a cooperative farm, and to the homes of the classical German writers Goethe and Schiller.

Other longer or shorter trips can be arranged, and other cities or places of interest visited.

Any group wishing to arrange such a trip should write to:

**KOMITEE FÜR TOURISTIK
UND WANDERN**

Unter den Linden 36-38

Berlin W 8

German Democratic Republic

The letter should say how large the group is, when and how long you would like to visit, and what you would especially like to see in the GDR. The best months for such trips are July and August when the student hostels are not occupied, and it is advisable to make arrangements well in advance.

If you are interested in taking a trip to the German Democratic Republic but would prefer hotel accommodations to youth hostels and student hostels, you should either consult a travel agency in your country or write to the central travel agency of the GDR - the "Deutsches Reise-

büro" - at the address given below. This organisation arranges every possible kind of trip - from two-day visits at Easter or Whitsuntide or a quick tour to a flower show or sport championship right up to a 22-day tour of the most interesting sights in the whole Republic. It offers a variety of special tours as well - to mountain areas, to cities of cultural importance, to the large memorials on the sites of the nazi concentration camps or, in summer, to the Baltic Sea beaches.

The "Deutsches Reisebüro" also arranges all visa questions for the traveller to the GDR - on request, it will send you the application forms to be filled out, make suggestions for a trip and tell you the prices in your currency. It is important to mention here that group visits are still greatly preferable. The more people traveling together, the less expensive the visit. Trips by individuals or couples are still very expensive. In any case, it is best to make arrangements well in advance.

All enquiries should be sent to:

DEUTSCHES REISEBÜRO

Friedrichstrasse 110-112

Berlin N 4

German Democratic Republic

For those who are passing through Berlin on their way to or from some other country, there are several chances to get at least a glimpse of the GDR. You can move freely between West and East Berlin without any visa or other permit, and you may look at, investigate, photograph or talk to anyone or anything in East Berlin, capital of the GDR, to your heart's content.

For visitors from abroad who want to take a quick look at other parts of the GDR, there are one-day scheduled bus trips to Potsdam, with the famous Sans Souci palace and gardens, to Dresden with its art galleries and new construction programme, and to the newly-built city of "Stalinstadt", founded ten years ago on the Oder as part of a great new industrial centre. The trips cost between £2 and £4 per person. All information on exact dates and details of these one-day trips may be obtained from the "Deutsches Reisebüro".

N. B. GERMAN REPORT is not a travel agency. We therefore request our readers not to write to us for information, but to one of the addresses given above.

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Friedrichstrasse 167/III

Berlin W 8, Germany

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Democratic Germany Takes the Hurdles

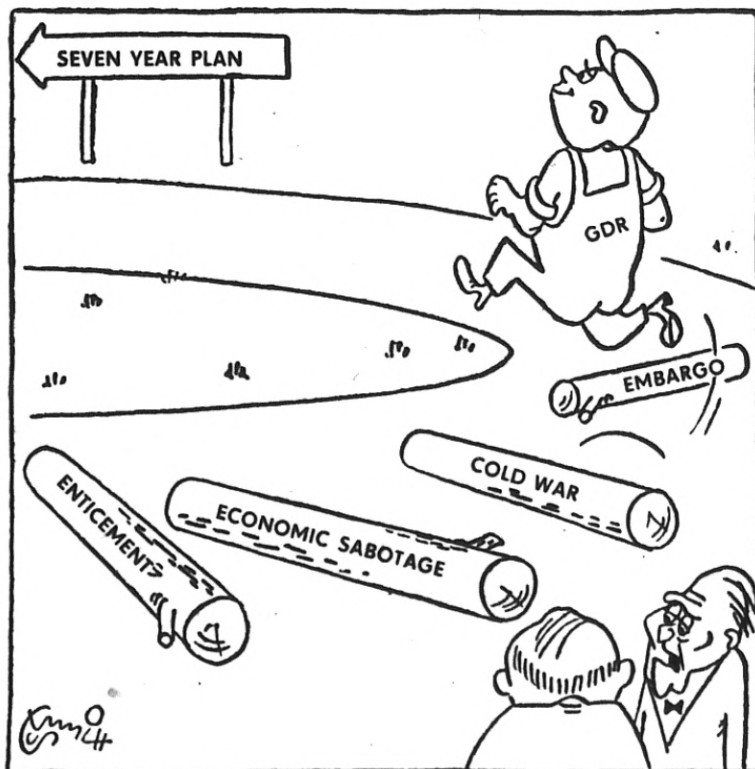
The cartoon on this page shows the workers of the German Democratic Republic sailing over the obstacle course laid out by the West German Government, and well on the way to fulfilling the Seven Year Plan, due to end in 1965.

The German readers of the popular East Berlin newspaper "Berliner Zeitung" in which this cartoon appeared on January 3rd know all about the obstacles shown by the artist, but some explanation is probably necessary for most foreign readers.

Ever since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949, one of the aims of the West German Government has been to undermine the new state, and to hinder its development by all possible means.

The first obstacle shown, rather cryptically inscribed "ENTICEMENT", represents the efforts made by the West German authorities, and West German industry, to weaken the GDR by recruiting and luring away skilled workers, technicians, scientists, and other key figures in the economy. In its simplest form this campaign has consisted of offering good jobs, housing, special grants, and various other inducements to research workers and all sorts of specialists. This simple "recruitment" has often been supplemented by sending anonymous letters threatening the persons concerned that they were on the point of being arrested by the GDR authorities. This campaign has played a not unimportant part in keeping up the flow of "refugees" leaving the GDR to go to West Germany. In recent months there appears to have been a certain let-up in this enticement campaign on the part of the West German Government, but many big firms in West Germany are still indulging in it, with or without official support.

The second hurdle, "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE", covers a huge range of activities, some of them carried on quite openly by the West German authorities, and some by western cloak-and-dagger organisations. The official steps have included obstacles placed in the way of West German firms wishing to trade with the GDR, and official West German representations made in other western countries aimed at preventing an enlargement of their trade with the GDR. The favourite measure of the cloak-and-dagger men has been to send forged letters and telegrams to for-



Adenauer: "The only thing we've achieved with all our obstacles is to turn him into a perfect hurdler."

(Cartoon from "Berliner Zeitung", East Berlin)

eign trade partners of the GDR, telling them that for one reason or another the trade deals are off.

The hurdle "COLD WAR" is self-explanatory.

The last hurdle "EMBARGO" has shrunk in importance in the past weeks. In September 1960, the West German authorities attempted to impose an embargo on trade with the GDR, and cancelled the trade agreement between the two German states. When other western countries showed no intention of joining in the embargo, and when influential West German firms protested that they were losing important orders as a result of the cancellation, the West German authorities reversed their decision and the trade agreement went back into force from January 1st 1961.

Observers in Berlin commented that the precipitate action of the West German Government in cancelling the trade agreement between

the two German states may have been a blessing in disguise for the economy of the GDR, for it showed economic planners that some branches of the GDR economy were over-dependent upon supplies of certain materials from West Germany. If trade between the two German states had come to a standstill, there would have been some nasty bottlenecks in various important branches of production, which might have lasted for several months before alternative sources of supply could be worked out.

When this became apparent in late 1960, research workers in all parts of the Republic went into action, and before the end of the year they had shown that a number of these key goods could in fact be made in the GDR. Research in this direction is continuing, so that the West German authorities will not in future be tempted to hold the GDR up to ransom by withholding relatively small quantities of key materials.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A loud and rather significant uproar broke out in the West German capital of Bonn early in January as the result of a lecture on constitutional law delivered by Dr Thomas Dehler, prominent member of the Free Democratic Party and Vice-Chairman of the West German Parliament.

Constitutional law may not seem a subject likely to raise anyone's blood pressure very much; but in the course of his lecture, delivered to law students, Dr Dehler dared to infringe on one of the most binding taboos imposed by the West German authorities: he suggested that the German Democratic Republic really exists.

He pointed out, in carefully chosen legal language, that the German Democratic Republic had its own territory and exercised all the functions of a state; from the point of view of international law it did not matter if a state was "democratic" or "legitimate"; all that mattered was that it existed and functioned.

A howl of protest arose from the pro-Adenauer West German press, and spokesmen of the ruling Christian Democratic Union; according to them, Dr Dehler, by stating the facts, had practically committed high treason.

This little episode throws some interesting light on ways of thought in high quarters in West Germany. Dr Adenauer and his merry men love to make resounding speeches about the necessity for German re-unification; but it must be obvious that there are only two ways of achieving reunification — either by negotiation or by force. For negotiation it is necessary to have two partners to do the discussing; and this means that sooner or later representatives of the two German states will have to sit down together and talk things over. Since the West German authorities refuse even to admit that there is another partner, we are driven to the conclusion that they want to achieve reunification by force. You have been warned.

The editor of the right-wing West German newspaper "Rheinischer Merkur" has come up with a brilliantly simple solution to the problem of what to do with West Germans who perversely refuse to love Chancellor Adenauer. The West German police should just round them up and shove them across the frontier into the German Democratic Republic.

Writing in his paper on January 5th 1961, the editor, named Paul Wilhelm Wenger, stated: "It is urgently necessary to deport agents who penetrate our state from the Soviet Zone (GDR, ed.) and also those Communists in the Federal Republic who are in contact with them; throwing these people into prison in masses just makes them martyrs ... The right to order such deportations must lie in the hands of the Federal Minister of the Interior."

To understand this paragraph properly, it is necessary to understand the code in which it is written: "agent from the Soviet Zone" means anybody from the German Democratic Republic who visits West Germany and says anything favourable about the state in which he lives; "Communist", of course, means anyone who is in favour of an atom-free zone in Europe, who opposes West German remilitarisation, or is critical of the employment of old nazis in high positions in the Bonn Government.

One of these old nazis is, of course, Gerhard Schroeder, former Hitler storm trooper, who should, it is suggested, order such deportations.

Readers with longish memories will recall that in 1939, a few months before the outbreak of the war, the nazis tried to push thousands of unwanted inhabitants over the eastern borders of Germany into Poland, leaving them starving and freezing in no-man's land. Later they finished the job off more effectively with gas chambers.

It is always very tempting to say "I told you so" when something which you had predicted would happen comes about. I try to restrain the impulse most of the time, but stirring through some old papers a few days ago I found the manuscript of a radio commentary which I wrote and delivered nearly sixteen years ago. I was working at that time for a department of the British Ministry of Information in the Middle East, and spoke the following words, which I must modestly describe as wise and far-sighted, over Jerusalem Radio on November 5th 1944, six months before the end of the war:

"The whole question of what to do with Germany is of course being discussed and chewed over until most people are heartily sick of the subject.

We must not let ourselves get sick of it though, for it is the key on which the future of the world depends.

"I think there is one touchstone which can profitably be applied when the subject is discussed. When anyone makes a plan on what to do with Germany, the thing to ask is not so much whether it is the best plan, but whether it can be applied; and secondly whether we shall in fact apply it, even twenty years from now, when the passions and hates of war have cooled.

"The Treaty of Versailles imposed a series of perfectly sound provisions like the reduction of Germany's army to 100,000 men, and the demilitarisation of the Rhineland. If the Treaty of Versailles had been enforced, the present war would never have started. When the German army re-occupied the Rhineland in 1936, the French and British Armies could have forced Germany to respect the treaty in a matter of a few weeks. They did not act, partly because they were disunited, and partly because the feeling was very strong in the governing circles of both countries that Germany was a useful bulwark against the Soviet Union.

"Exactly the same thing will happen after this war, whatever is done to Germany, and however well-thought-out the plan is, unless the peoples of Britain, the Soviet Union, France and the United States see to it that their governments preserve in peace the unity which has been won in war."

After presenting you with this chunk of prescience, I would like to assure you that other chunks are unlikely to follow, since I am an inveterate thrower-away of manuscripts and newspaper cuttings, and I have not got any more of the same vintage. Which may be a good thing, because I feel sure that my crystal ball was pretty cloudy in some other cases.

Recently the popular press in Britain and America has been full of stories about the difficulties experienced in making a film epic entitled "Cleopatra", starring a young lady named Elizabeth Taylor. Purely by coincidence, the GDR film company DEFA has just given the first showing of a film entitled "No Trouble with Cleopatra". The makers assure me that the film has nothing at all to do with the 20th Century-Fox epic or its mishaps; the star of the East German film cannot compete with Miss Taylor for beauty — she is a pig.